

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 ABMC-01 L-02 PRS-01 /045 W

----- 049955

R 170450Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 448

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION WASHDC

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0349

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR USG TO CONSTRUCT NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
SHRINE AT WEWAK IN COMMEMORATION U.S. FALLEN IN  
WWII PAPUA NEW GUINEA CAMPAIGN

1. SUMMARY: CONGEN IN RECEIPT LETTER SIGNED ACTING SEC  
PNG DEPT. FOR RELATIONS SIAGURU ENCLOSING LETTER FROM DEF  
AND FONMIN KIKI TO SECRETARY KISSINGER REQUESTING USG  
CONSIDERATION PROPOSAL THAT USG CONSTRUCT NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
SHRINE IN INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK AT CAPE WOM IN EAST  
SEPIK. PROJECT SUPPORTED BY KIKI AND CHIEF MINISTER AND  
SIMILAR LETTERS FORWARDED TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS  
JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, AND INDIA. CONGEN URGES AFFIRMATIVE  
RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

2. ORIGINAL LETTER FROM KIKI TO SECRETARY POUCHED DEPT.  
TEXT FOLLOWS BELOW:

QTE IN AUGUST 1945 AT CAPE WOM NEAR WEWAK IN THE EAST SEPIK  
DISTRICT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA WORLD WAR II HOSTILITIES  
CEASED. A SMALL AREA WAS LATER SET ASIDE AT CAPE WOM  
AND A MEMORIAL PARK WAS DEVELOPED LARGELY BY VOLUNTEER  
EFFORT INSPIRED BY THE RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE (WEWAK  
SUB-BRANCH). THE MEMORIAL PARK COMMEMORATES MANY  
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AUSTRALIANS WHO DIED IN THE AREA DURING THE WAR AND

PLAQUES HAVE BEEN ERECTED IN MEMORY OF INDIANS, AMERICANS AND PAPUA NEW GUINEANS WHO DIED. A FEW MILES AWAY ON MISSION HILL, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWN OF WEWAK, THERE IS A MEMORIAL TO THE JAPANESE WHO FELL IN THE AREA DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

3. QTE THE MEMORIAL PARK WAS GIVEN RECENTLY TO THE CARE, CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA NATIONAL PARKS BOARD FOR DEVELOPMENT AS AN HISTORIC SITE. IN ADDITION AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 50 HECTARES IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING MEMORIAL PARK WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE BOARD. THE ADDITIONAL AREA HAS BEEN EXTENSIVELY ALTERED FROM ITS NATURAL STATE.

4. QTE SUPPORTED BY THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT THE NATIONAL PARKS BOARD IS DEVELOPING THE WHOLE AREA AS AN INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK.

5. QTE PLANS FOR THE AREA ENTAIL CONSIDERABLE LANDSCAPING AND REPLANTING EXCEPT FOR AN AREA OF FORESHORE WHERE NATURAL VEGETATION HAS SURVIVED AND WHICH WILL BE DEVELOPED PRIMARILY FOR RECREATION PURPOSES. WITHIN THE AREA LANDSCAPED AND PLANTED IT IS HOPED THAT VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS WILL EACH ERECT A SMALL SHRINE IN ITS OWN INDIVIDUAL STYLE, TO SYMBOLISE UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION. A WELCOME HOUSE (INFORMATION CENTRE) WILL BE BUILT AT THE ENTRY TO THE MEMORIAL PARK TO ASSIST VISITORS TO THE AREA, PROVIDE INFORMATION AND STRESS THE MESSAGE OF CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING.

6. QTE THEREFORE, THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT IS INVITING THE GOVERNMENTS OF AUSTRALIA, INDIA, JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ERECT SHRINES AT CAPE WOM. IT IS FELT THAT THE PROPOSAL OUTLINED ABOVE WILL DO MUCH TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS AND GOODWILL.

7. QTE ON BEHALF OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT I INVITE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAPE WOM INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK BY ERECTING A SMALL SHRINE, BUILT IN THE INDIVIDUAL STYLE OF YOUR  
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COUNTRY AND SYMBOLISING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION.

8. QTE THE NATIONAL PARKS BOARD PLANS TO COMPLETE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTAL AND CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE PARK IN AUGUST 1975 SO THAT THE OFFICIAL OPENING WOULD TAKE PLACE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. SHOULD YOUR GOVERNMENT

BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT I WOULD BE  
GRATEFUL IF THE PROPOSED TARGET DATE COULD BE KEPT IN  
MIND.

9. QTE I HOPE SINCERELY THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL PARTI-  
CIPATE IN THIS VERY WORTHWHILE PROJECT. UNQTE

10. COMMENT: WHILE REQUEST DIRECTED AT 30TH ANNIVERSARY  
TERMINATION HOSTILITIES AT WEWAK, AUGUST 75 DATE IS  
UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO LINKED TO PLANNED INDEPENDENCE  
CEREMONIES IN SEPTEMBER. PROPOSAL IS NOT ONLY FOR  
COMMEMORATION OF U.S. WWII MILITARY WHO FELL HERE, BUT  
ALSO TO PROMOTE QTE INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS AND GOODWILL.  
UNQTE . THERE REMAINS CONSIDERABLE GOODWILL HERE TOWARDS  
U.S. AS RESULT DRAMATIC EVENTS WWII. CONGEN STRONGLY  
SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD REEMPHASIZE U.S.  
PAST CONTRIBUTION. WE HOPE THAT DEPT. WILL FULLY EXPLORE  
POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING FUNDING FROM U.S. BATTLE  
MONUMENT COMMISSION AND/OR OTHER APPROPRIATE SOURCES.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, TEXT, MONUMENTS, WORLD WAR II, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PORTM00349  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750134-0781  
**From:** PORT MORESBY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750442/aaaabmpe.tel  
**Line Count:** 135  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REQUEST FOR USG TO CONSTRUCT NATIONAL MEMORIAL SHRINE AT WEWAK IN COMMEMORATION U.S. FALLEN IN  
**TAGS:** ETRD, PP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006